

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE CONCLUDING SOCDEM MEETING

REF: COPENHAGEN 0203

SUMMARY: IN CLOSING TWO-DAY SOCDEM MEETING AT AFTERNOON PRESS CONFERENCE, DANISH PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN CHARACTERIZED IT AS A "GREAT SUCCESS". JORGENSEN SAID THAT A GENERAL DECISION ON WHETHER WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES WERE "DEMOCRATIC" WAS "PREMATURE" AND THAT INDIVIDUAL SOCIALIST PARTIES HAD TO MAKE ASSESSMENT THEMSELVES. MITTERAND ATTEMPTED TO JUSTIFY HIS COOPERATION WITH FRENCH COMMUNISTS. SCHMIDT DISAGREED FUNDAMENTALLY WITH MITTERAND AND SAID COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN ANY WESTERN EUROPEAN GOVERNMENT WOULD WEAKEN NATO AND EC. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF AT HELSINGOR CONFERENCE SITE REPORTED FOLLOWING SUMMARY OF HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS AFTERNOON'S PRESS CONFERENCE CLOSING THE TWO-DAY MEETING OF LEADERS OF EUROPEAN SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES.

2. JORGENSEN LED OFF WITH DECLARATION OF UTILITY OF THE MEETING AND HIS REGARD OF IT AS A GREAT SUCCESS. HE SAID AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON MANY TOPICS. HE STRESSED THAT SOCIAL DEMOCRACY IS ONE OF THE "SAFEST BASTIONS OF DEMOCRACY". HE SAID THAT DETAILS OF PROVIDING PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO SOCIALIST FORCES IN SPAIN HAD NOT BEEN DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING. THE LEADERS HE ADDED, HAD UNDERLINED THEIR POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES EXPRESSED IN THEIR CALL FOR A NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER.

3. JORGENSEN SAID THE MEETING HAD, BY AND LARGE, REAFFIRMED SUPPORT FOR FREE MARKET MECHANISMS BUT ADDED THAT WHEN THAT MACHINERY DID NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY, ALTERNATIVES FOR IT MUST BE FOUND ON AN INTERNATIONAL BASIS TO DEAL WITH SUPPLY AND PRICE PROBLEMS.

4. IN SPEAKING ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN EUROPE, JORGENSEN SAID THAT COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE TRADITIONALLY STOOD FOR DICTATORSHIPS, WHICH IS ANATHEMA TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. EVEN THOUGH SOME WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES MAY HAVE CHANGED, THE SOCIALIST LEADERS THINK IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE A GENERAL DECISION ON WHETHER THESE PARTIES HAVE INDEED BECOME DEMOCRATIC. SUCH A DECISION MUST BE LEFT TO THE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL SOCIALIST PARTY ON THE BASIS OF LOCAL ASSESSMENT.

5. JORGENSEN NOTED THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD BEEN AN

INFORMAL ONE AND THAT NO FINAL COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE ISSUED.

6. IN RESPONSE TO A PRESS QUESTION, MITTERAND REPEATED THE SUBSTANCE OF THE RATIONALE REPORTED IN PARA 2 REFTEL CONCERNING COOPERATION BETWEEN THE FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND THE COMMUNISTS. HE NOTED, IN ADDITION, THAT IN FINLAND AND PORTUGAL THE COMMUNISTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN GOVERNMENTS. IN FRANCE, THEY ARE A PARTNER IN THE ALLIANCE WITH THE SOCIALISTS. MITTERAND CONTINUED WITH SOME RELATIVELY COMPLICATED PHILOSOPHIZING, THEN WENT ON TO ANSWER A QUESTION ABOUT HOW COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT COULD LEAD TO BETTER DEMOCRACIES. MITTERAND REPLIED THAT IN FRANCE HIS GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE A UNION OF ALL THE WORKERS. THIS IS AN ECONOMIC PROBLEM. THE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS MUST BE ADDRESSED LATER. THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUCH A UNION ITSELF WOULD BE A GREAT LEAP FORWARD, HE TOLD THE PRESS.

7. MITTERAND WAS ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS AN INDIRECT "PRESENCE" OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE CONFERENCE. HE REPLIED THAT MOST OF THE COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THE HELSINGOR MEETING WERE ALLIES OF THE UNITED STATES. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE COUNTRIES AND THE US WAS CLOSE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT AN ALLY. IT WAS ACCORDINGLY NORMAL, MITTERAND SAID, FOR JORGENSEN TO MEET WITH AN IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVE OF A POWERFUL ALLY. MITTERAND CONTINUED THAT WHETHER THE US HOPED TO INFLUENCE THE CONFERENCE AND WHETHER IT HAD DONE SO WERE TWO DIFFERENT QUESTION. CERTAINLY THE US WOULD HOPE TO INFLUENCE DECISIONS TAKEN AT THE MEETING BUT MITTERAND DID NOT BELIEVE THAT IT WAS ABLE TO: "I AM SORRY IF THE US COULD ACTUALLY DO SO." MITTERAND ADDED THAT THE US UNDERSTANDABLY WANTS NATO TO BE STRONG BUT NATO SHOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT BE A DEVICE FOR THE US TO USE TO INTERFERE IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

8. SCHMIDT THEN INTERJECTED THAT THE GERMANS DIFFERED FUNDAMENTALLY WITH MITTERAND. THE GERMAN WORKER SEES NO REASON FOR AN APPROACH TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THE FRG HAS NO REASON TO WELCOME SUCH A RELATIONSHIP. SCHMIDT HIMSELF THEN SPOKE SOMEWHAT AT LENGTH PHILOSOPHICALLY. IN ESSENCE HE SAID THAT COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT WOULD INHIBIT THE ABILITY OF THAT GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN NATO AND PERHAPS THE EC.

9. WILSON, SCHMIDT AND JORGENSEN ALL AGREED THAT THE TINDEMANS REPORT WAS A BASIS FOR DEBATE AND NEGOTIATION.

10. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTY
CHAIRMAN FELIPE GONZALES SAIS THAT HIS PARTY WOULD NOT
ENTER THE CORTES UNTIL THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS LEGALIZED.

11. WILSON NOTED THAT NEITHER THE GENERAL SITUATION IN
THE MIDDLE EAST NOR LEBANON SPECIFICALLY WAS DISCUSSED.
HE ALSO NOTED THAN AN ICELAND REPRESENTATIVE MET WITH
CALLAGHAN LAST NIGHT TO DISCUSS THE "COD WAR" BUT THAT THE
BRITISH POSITION HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE AMPLY CLEAR IN PARLIAMENT.

12. SCHMIDT OUTLINED PRESENT GERMAN ECONOMIC POLICY AND
EXPRESSED HIS HOPE FOR FULL RECOVERY IN 1977.

13. JORGENSEN CLOSED THE PRESS CONFERENCE WITH AN ALLUSION
TO THE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS THAT HAD
SUCCESSFULLY BEEN BRIDGED AND THANKED ALL FOR COMING.
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